

of 2001, Mr. Desai was finally elected to serve as Ward 3 Alderman of the City of Canton, Mississippi.

Many referred to and knew Mr. Desai merely as S.K. Mr. Desai was known as a hard working man that loved his job. He was regarded as a person who took great pride in being an elected public servant. Mr. Desai made a point to be present at City Hall every day and make himself accessible to the citizens of Canton.

Mr. Desai is survived by his wife, two sons, and his parents.

HONORING LILLIAN WOOD FOR
FIFTY YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me today to recognize an extraordinary Pennsylvanian who has dedicated herself to the service of her country for more than half a century.

Ms. Lillian Wood, born in East Millsboro, Pennsylvania, graduated from Brownsville High School in 1951. She began working as a civilian clerk-typist for the Marine Corps in February 1952. "Lil," as she is known to generations of Marines, quickly demonstrated a commitment and dedication and was recognized with a rapid series of promotions in several divisions within Headquarters, United States Marine Corps.

Based on her superb performance in support of the Personnel, Aviation, G-4, and Reserve Affairs divisions, Lil was selected as the Branch Supervisor for the newly created Special Correspondence Branch of the Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department in 1966. Lil was charged with supervision of 28 employees, both military and civilian, and was responsible for providing updates and responses to all Congressional inquiries into Marine Corps affairs.

"The Few and the Proud" is not just a recruiting slogan, and it applies as much to Marines in combat as to the civilian Marines who make it possible for them to deploy and come home safely. The success of Marines in battle throughout the history of our great nation is due, in no small measure, to the support they receive from civilian Marines and families back home.

Lil Wood stands as a shining example to all Marines, civilian Marines, and civil servants throughout the government. Lil and I both began our service to our country in 1952, both in the Marine Corps. Her accomplishments and fifty years of dedication to the Corps and to our country are remarkable and commendable. The Marine Corps is losing a valuable asset, and I offer Lil my best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

CARE 21

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to restore our Nation's historic commitment to insuring lifetime health care for retired coal miners. Joining me in introducing this bill is the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, BOB NEY. Indeed, last year the House of Representatives passed the legislation we are reintroducing today. However, the other body did not take action on it prior to adjournment of the 107th Congress.

Enactment this year of CARE 21, the "Coal Accountability and Retired Employee Act for the 21st Century," is essential if we are to avoid seeing a curtailment in health care coverage for thousands of retired coal miners and their widows. This would not be the first time that Congress acted in this matter. In 1992, in what is known as the "Coal Act" enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act, Congress established the UMWA Combined Benefit Fund (CBF) combining the union's 1950 and 1974 benefit plans. This action came in response to changes in the coal industry which created a large class of "orphaned" miners whose benefits were no longer being paid by an active coal company. A key feature of the Coal Act was the financing of orphaned miner health care costs through an annual transfer of a portion of the interest which accrues to the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Simply put, in restoring abandoned coal mine lands we must not abandon the retired coal miner.

The Coal Act has worked well with health care for retirees whose former employers could be identified financed by premiums paid by those companies while providing for a transfer of reclamation fund interest to finance orphaned miner care.

However, a barrage of litigation, adverse court decisions and skyrocketing health care costs is now threatening the financial integrity of the program. The result: Without a new source of funds, the CBF faces a deficit which if it continues could force curtailments in health care coverage for some 50,000 retirees and widows whose average age is 78.

CARE 21 takes a relatively simple and straightforward approach to addressing this impending crisis: It would lift the restriction in current law that reclamation fund interest can only be used for orphaned miner health care. Instead, it would allow interest transfers to be made for the purpose of offsetting any deficit in net assets in the CBF.

One of the key features of CARE 21 is that the general taxpayer is not being called upon to pay for retired coal miner health care, but rather, the coal industry itself would provide for this coverage through the interest which accrues to the fees it pays into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I noted earlier there is a historical commitment to providing health care for retired coal miners. This is a unique situation in that what would normally be a matter solely for the private sector is not in this instance. The genesis for this situation dates back to 1946 in an agreement between then-UMW President John L. Lewis and the federal gov-

ernment to resolve a long-running labor dispute. At the time, President Truman had ordered the Interior Secretary to take possession of all bituminous coal mines in the country in an effort to break a United Mine Workers of America strike. Eventually, Lewis and Secretary Julius Krug reached an agreement that included an industry-wide, miner controlled health plan.

In fact, the 1992 Coal Act itself was formulated partly on the basis of recommendations from the Coal Commission, established by former Labor Secretary Libby Dole, which in 1990 recommended a statutory obligation to help finance the UMWA's Health Benefit Funds.

Mr. Speaker, the people covered by this health care program spent their careers producing the energy which powered this Nation to greatness. We must not forsake them. We must not cast them adrift in their later years, robbed of the health care they so desperately need.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: KENT &
LESLIE TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise today to pay tribute to Kent and Leslie Taylor, founders of the Texas Roadhouse. This family steakhouse restaurant chain remains very popular throughout this country for its great food and distinctive atmosphere. As Texas Roadhouse celebrates their tenth anniversary, I would like to recognize this milestone, and the Taylor's success before this body of Congress and this nation.

Kent and Leslie Taylor's success represents the entrepreneurial spirit of the American dream. Their persistence in forging an idea into a dream, and their commitment to that dream, is truly inspirational. Their product, market, customers, and most importantly, their employees, have all come together to create a winning formula. What began as a simple idea has now grown into an organization employing thousands. They have become an essential contributor to many communities throughout this country, and I would like to commend them for their outstanding success.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Kent and Leslie Taylor before this body of Congress and this nation for their enduring commitment to realizing the American dream. Businesses like these are the backbone of our economy and the heart of our neighborhoods. The Taylor's dream has become a successful and enduring enterprise, and I wish all the best to Kent and Leslie in all of their future endeavors.

REGARDING THE DEATH OF HEL-
MUT "BROWNIE" BRAUNSTEINER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, December 29th, Pierce County,